



Dear Colleagues,

2003 has been a challenging, yet productive and successful year for the National Board. While we are tightening our belts like many other organizations, operating with about half the staff of last year, we have come through with record accomplishments. Let me share some highlights since we met in October.

Of significance – Governor Musgrove has assured us that he wants to remain on our board and is pleased that we have re-elected him.

Over 1,150 conferees convened in Washington, D.C. on November 13-16 to attend the NBPTS National Conference, which included not only NBCTs, but other NBPTS stakeholders as well. The conference began early on November 13 with over 450 NBCTs participating in Hill Day. Imagine 450 NBCTs in the halls of Congress, meeting with their legislators and staff. From start to finish, every meeting and event was well attended and appreciated.

As the result of extraordinary assessment and delivery teamwork from NBPTS, ETS, and Harcourt Education Measurement, our second year of full online score release went very well. The Web service for the 2002-2003 candidate score release was launched at 9:21 a.m. on Friday, November 21. Our servers handled a total of 3.9 million hits by 3:00 p.m., more than double the number of last year. Of those hits, 852,143 occurred in the first hour between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. when we also had 3,590 unique visitors. By 3:15 p.m., 3,006 new NBCTs had confirmed how they wanted their name to appear on their certificates, and we had received 191 retake applications online, more than double the number of retake applications received on the first day of score release last year.

Nearly 8,200 teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2003, bringing our cumulative total of National Board Certified Teachers to 32,132. This achievement is a benchmark occasion for our organization, the teaching profession and the nation. Our message has been picked up by major print, radio and television stations across the nation, including the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *The Washington Post*, *Tampa Tribune*,

St. Petersburg Times and (NY) *Journal News*, WOWK-TV (CBS, Charleston, WV), KFOR-TV (NBC, Okla. City), WBRC-TV (Fox, Birmingham) and WVTM-TV (WB, Milwaukee). Several local daily publications are carrying our story in small and medium-sized markets, and will continue well into next year. To further broaden our message, our new chair, Governor Barnes, has participated in several interviews with members of the media.

We have launched the ACE program that affords graduate credit to NBCTs and those who complete the process. So far, there seems to be a good amount of interest. As of December 23, 423 teachers have begun the process of attaining graduate credit.

Content validation went great for the two new certificates (Literacy and School Counseling), and we remain optimistic that we will have enough candidates to score Latin in 2004.

On the fundraising front, we're pleased to announce that GlaxoSmithKline has made its first donation to the National Board, a gift of \$300,000 payable over three years to support scholarships for candidate fees in North Carolina and Pennsylvania. Additionally, AT&T Foundation has committed \$50,000 to be the exclusive sponsor of "The Box" for the 2005-2006 candidate cycle.

At the federal level, our funds (\$10 million) remain in the omnibus appropriations bill that has passed the House. The Senate will not consider it until January 20. We fully expect to be in the bill that finally reaches the President's desk.

Your budget materials will be sent shortly in a separate communication.

In closing, the staff of the National Board join me in wishing you all a very happy, healthy, and safe holiday season.

Joe Aguerrebere